

NSW Camellia Research Society NEWSLETTER

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A CAMELLIA JAPONICA AT ENG ALLS CITRUS NURSERY, DURAL

Ever wanted to become an editor
of a camellia newsletter??

Now is your opportunity!!

I will be taking a break during
2020

Please let your interest be known!

Erin



Eryldene: venue for the February NSWCRS meeting



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The new year has started on a rather sombre note. We saw the passing of three of our present and past members; Barbara Walker, Richard Fischer, and Wai Davidson and one of the real personalities of the gardening world— Ben Swaine. Memorial articles are in the body of the Newsletter.

It has also been sad in the gardens of any members to whom I have spoken recently following the severe windstorm and the excessively hot days of the last few weeks.

It is to be hoped that the heavy rain forecast for this week will set us up for a good autumn and winter.

Neutrog will continue to be our sponsor this year and we have received our latest royalty payment. However, following the mix-ups with the contract trucking company who service Neutrog's deliveries in Sydney we will not be able to access their products as we did last year. We need to have a delivery address with a level driveway able to take a large truck (about the size of a large removal van) not the 3 tonne truck they had to send in two deliveries to our home.

In late December Carolyn and I had the pleasure of hosting Frederic de Premonville and Zoe Levi; a French couple referred to us by Gabriel Gardelle (one of our guides from the ICS Congress in Nantes) with a particular interest in bonsai.

On the 20th January The ICS Director for Germany and Austria, Anke Koschitz and her partner Detlev Staacke arrive to be on the panel assessing Lisgar Gardens as an International Camellia Garden of Excellence.

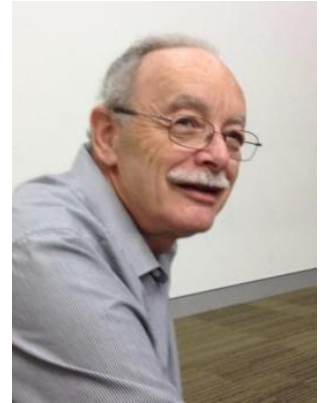
Articles are later in the newsletter.

A reminder, Membership Subscriptions were due in November and Newsletters will only be posted or emailed to financial members until March.

Also get well message for Julie Hood: We hope you are on the mend soon.

Daniel Low

President, 2019-2020





NSW CRS ANNUAL DINNER AND PRESENTATION

And the winners were . . .



Open Winner Daniel Low



Novice Winner Judith McGill



Reticulata Winner Richie Griffiths

* Full Results are in the November 2019 Newsletter



is for February and...



Fairy Wand

Fragrant Pink

Fred Sander

Fashionata

Flower Girl



MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2020

February 2020	
Saturday 22nd	Meeting at Eryldene <i>17 Macintosh St, Gordon</i> 2pm
March 2020	
Monday, 16th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon</i> 7pm benching of blooms for 7.30pm meeting Speaker TBA
April 2020	
Monday 20th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon</i> 7pm benching of blooms Speaker TBA
May2020	
Monday 18th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon</i> 7pm benching of blooms Speaker TBA
June 2020	
Monday 15th	NSWCRS Monthly Meeting (Always 3rd Monday of Month) <i>Gordon Baptist Church, 20-22 Park Ave, Gordon</i> 7pm benching of blooms Speaker TBA
July 2020	
Saturday 11 th and Sunday 12th	NSW CRS Annual Show
Saturday 18 th and Sunday 19th	Illawarra Annual Show & National Show



FEBRUARY NSWCRS MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, 22nd February

ERYLDENE

17 McIntosh Street, GORDON

2pm



OUR SOCIETY'S INTRODUCTION TO THE ICS VISITORS FROM FRANKFURT

Although the visitors had been in Australia for a few days and had met with our member and ICS Director, Stephen Utick, it was only on Friday the 24th January that they met up with more of our members at lunch and for a Garden Visit.

The lunchtime attendees were: Anke Koschitz and Detlev Staacke from Germany, Stephen Utick, Pam Watson, Juliet Muras, Carolyn and Daniel Low, Kate Stanley and Bill and Joanne Parker.

A most enjoyable lunch was held at "The Secret Garden Vintage Pantry" Restaurant at Galston.

Over the meal we were able to get to know Anke and Detlev (Anke's partner) and their longer and shorter history with camellias. Although Anke attended the Congress in Nantes last year neither she nor we, (Pam, Carolyn or myself) could remember each other.



Bill, Stephen, Anke, Kate, Pam, Joanne, Carolyn and Detlev



Stephen, Detlev, Joanne, Pam, Daniel and Anke

Following the lunch Pam drove the guests and we drove ourselves, to the fabulous garden at Galston, "Elegans", the home of another of our members, Bill Fleming.

Notwithstanding the unbelievable weather we've had of late, there was a great deal for our visitors to see in his magnificent acreage. It was dry and sunny following a downpour at lunchtime.

The visit started in the greenhouse where his tropicals and bonsai were admired and then it was a guided tour around most of the garden.

Anke and Detlev did not know where to start with their enquiries regarding the genus and species of so many plants.



In their part of Germany it is very difficult to grow any reticulatas, but luckily we had some flower pics in our phones. The ponds, the wildlife; Eastern Black Ducks, Waterhens and Brush Turkeys (with their nesting mounds) were all of great interest as were the huge Swamp Cypresses with their pneumatophores.

It was plain to see that the visit to Bill's garden was a real highlight for them so thanks to Bill and Pam for making it possible at short notice.



Stephen and Anke



Detlev, Daniel, Pam, Anke and Bill



Anke and "Aussie" Limelight Wattle



Bill, Anke and Pam



Mine Host and Anke



On Mon 27th Stephen took the visitors to Lisgar Gardens for a preview of the garden prior to its assessment the following day. After their tour Stephen drove them to “Eryldene” where they, Carolyn, myself, our daughter Melissa and our granddaughter Charlotte were hosted to a great lunch by Helen Wallace and Juliet Muras, two of our members and like myself Board Members of Eryldene. The purpose was to assess the plants of Eryldene that could be the basis of a possible Camellia Garden of Historical Interest in the future. After lunch Stephen and Helen tracked down selected historical plants. Juliet and Helen then took us on a tour of the house.



Anke and Stephen



Daniel Juliet Stephen Detlev Helen Anke and Carolyn



Detlev and Anke

After the visit we took Anke and Detlev to their motel at Macquarie Park.

On the evening of the 28th Carolyn and I joined Stephen, Anke and Detlev for a farewell dinner where the highlight was some assorted sweets from a nearby stall.



A share plate of sweets



NATIVE TREES AS GUARDIANS OF CAMELLIAS

For a number of years we have planted and had the benefit of rainforest trees proving shelter and shade for our camellias. By coincidence we have had many of these plants since we came to this property in 1992.

Because of the Wheel of Fire and an Illawarra Flame Trees being extant when we arrived they appeared to be good companions to the existing camellias.

The slightly lighter shade of green leaves added a colour change, while the very different shapes added contrast within the garden.

They flowered at different times and added a different colour tone as well as a different shape to the camellias.

Shortly after our arrival we were most impressed by the magnificent Ivory Curl Flowers on the northern side of Telegraph Road so we decided to plant two groups in our garden as a feature.



Ivory Curl flowers



Looking north- from rear; Flame Tree, Magnolia, Ivory Curl Flower group and Ugli Tree to the front



However, we soon discovered that they serve a dual purpose. Their beauty was undeniable but their value as protectors of young camellias; in hedges, in pots and in the ground was soon apparent. Their weeping habit and their ability to form large spherical shapes when pruned adds to the formality of the camellias.

The Wheel of Fire tree has had more of its species added to the garden serving the same purpose on our north eastern boundaries.

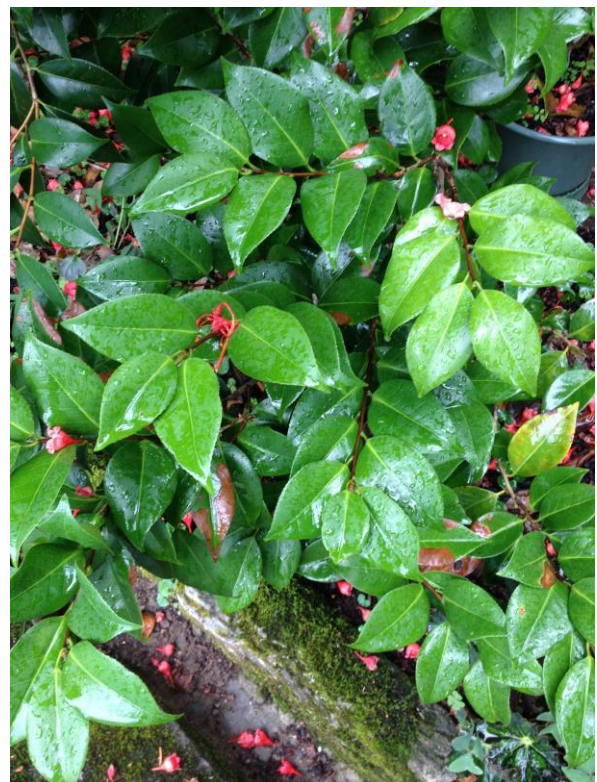
In front of our Wheel of Fire trees we have added the Golden Penda which directly faces the hot western aspect and has not suffered in the recent heat.

There are large Illawarra Flame Trees (which rarely flower except for this year) in the neighbouring property to the north and they have been sheltering the large japonicas and reticulates which were here before we arrived, obviously for maybe 40-50 years. The larger of the two, is currently showing a spectacular display of its red bell-shaped blossoms in bunches when little else in the surrounding area has blooms.

We are now following that trend in planting more of the same in our front garden facing north and west.



Ivory Curl group to the east



Suzie Fortson sheltered by the Flame Tree

Carolyn Low



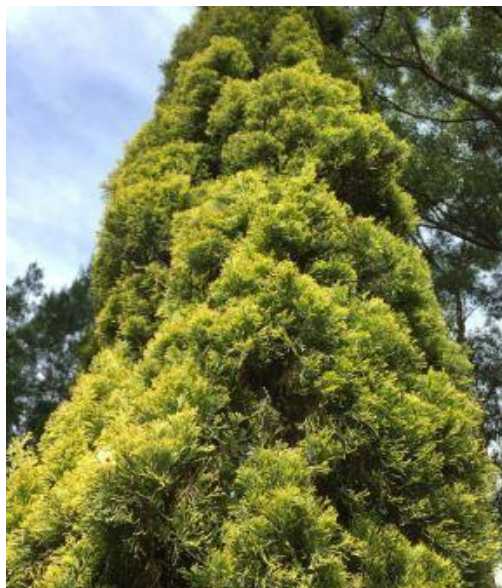
VALE EDGAR 'BEN' NORMAN SWANE AM 17NOV 1927-15 JAN 2020

Ben was a Sydney-based gardener. He was, until 2000, the proprietor of Swane's Nurseries at Dural, New South Wales and was for thirty years a gardening presenter on 702 ABC Sydney.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2011 for "service to horticulture and to business, to the development and promotion of the Australian native plants export trade, and through executive roles with a range of industry-based organisations"

"The Swane's nursery business was started by Ben's father Ted in 1919. In 1965, Ben was responsible for planning and constructing a new nursery at Dural. Here, in co-operation with Valerie, Ben maintained Swane's as a leading Australian nursery. Ben was known as "gardening royalty" and a true legend of the nursery and garden industry.

He was an adviser, broadcaster and educator and excelled at rose breeding also being an exporter. He received many accolades throughout his career, as a passionate and dedicated horticulturalist including in November 2005, the prestigious Graham Gregory Medal for outstanding contribution to the Australian horticultural industry, and in 2011, as a Member of the Order of Australia.



He was President of Nursery & Garden Industry Australia in 1986 and awarded Life Membership (then Nursery Industry Association of Australia) in 1989. He was also selected as Australian Nurseryman of the year in 1980.

In addition to Ben's lifelong involvement in the nursery industry, he took a leading role in many community activities. His work with Rotary was recognised with the Award of the Paul Harris Fellowship for services. Other community involvements included the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, Boy Scouts and the Bush Fire Brigade, which reflected his genuine interest in community activities and people." (Greenlife Industry Australia)

Personally, I and many others had the pleasure of being taught by Ben and we as a Society were graced by his presence as our Guest of Honour at our Show in 2016 (as seen in the photo above *taken by Bill Flemming.*)

Swanes Golden Cypress. Raised by Ben Swane in Sydney in 1958



VALE DR BARBRA WALKER

It was with sadness that I heard of the passing of our long-time member, Dr Barbara Walker

Barbara joined our Society in 1998, and from that time she served our society including: as a Committee Member, assisting in numerous ways at our Annual Show and as a regular attendee at our monthly meetings.

Barbara also volunteered at Eryldene where she worked in the garden, assisted with plant cataloguing and in the collection of cuttings.

Barbara tended her magnificent garden at Roseville of which she spoke of fondly, when we met late last year.

Daniel Low



VALE WAI DAVIDSON

Wai passed away at "Windyridge", Mt Wilson, in mid January, 2020

Wai and her husband Rodger owned Davidson's Nursery at Galston which specialized in camellias and azaleas.

Over the years Wai and Rodger were members of the NSWCRS and visited China with some other local enthusiasts in a group led by Bob Cherry about 1990.

They were generous with plants at various shows and also donated many 'not-saleable' sasanquas for use as grafting stock. Their production manager, Michael Burger, came along and gave quite a few talks, especially on sasanquas, over the years until his untimely death.

In 1995 Wai and Rodger bought 'Windyridge' at Mt Wilson, which many camellia society members would have visited over the years. The property dated back to 1877, and had been planted mainly in the 1940-1950s. Many trees remained, but the property was upgraded and landscaped by Gordon Sykes. Wai knew the property as she had worked for the Valders at 'Nooroo' in the 1970s.

Camellias Australia visited on 19th September 2015 during the National Conference hosted by our Society.

Our condolences to Rodger, and we hope that we can admire the plants Wai propagated and planted for many years to come.

Pam Watson





VALE RICHARD FISCHER

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of our past member, Richard Fischer.

“Richard had been a keen member of the society, serving on the Committee and Stewarding at a number of Shows.

Working as a professional in the Nursery Industry he brought a wealth of camellia knowledge to our society.

He was on the committee for several years 2005 - 2015 at a guess, and helped with the judging at the show for many years, until 2018. Eszter usually came along and helped with the recording at the show, she usually did the keyboard entry, with me, Alan Watson and Bill Fleming.

He and Eszter were married at Eryldene.

Richard was a good friend to Alan and Cec Truran, and he had many of their reticulatas. It was a huge upset to him at Alan’s passing.

He did write some regular articles on growing camellias in our journal, and ran Q & As on camellia problems at meetings.”

Pam Watson

When Carolyn and I were starting our camellia collection in the 1990s, Richard was a knowledgeable source of assistance at the Four Seasons Nursery offering sound advice on plant selection and forming a great friendship.

Daniel Low





VISITORS FROM FRANCE

During the Christmas break Carolyn and I had a most enjoyable day hosting two visitors from France.

When we were in France for the 2018 International camellia Congress, one of our guides in Nantes and the post-congress tour to the south-west and Paris was Gabriel Gardelle. Gabriel is one of the best-known Bonsai artists in France as well as a respected collector of camellias. Gabriell takes his Bonsai group on regular visits to Japan to study and to buy plants. While there they also see the other plant wonders of Japan including camellias. He asked us if we could introduce his friend Frederic de Premonville and his partner Zoe Levy, an Aussie to some of the best bonsai artists in Sydney.



Zoe, Fred, Megumi and Brian



Fred with a Banksia



Megumi explains fine point



Ray talks Bonsai



Water Gums at Nesci's



We arranged an itinerary to include the nurseries and collections of Megumi Bennett and Ray Nesci, both of whom support our show each year distributing show flyers and visiting the show.

We started at Megumi's nursery where Brian and Alex led us through the plants in various stages of growth and we also observed the special plants on show. Driving up to Berowra, we were greeted by Megumi who hosted us at morning tea and showed us her special private collection with Brian.

We then took Fred and Zoe for a Japanese lunch.

From Asquith, it was a pleasant drive over the Galston Gorge to Kenthurst. Ray met us and after a tour of the nursery he explained how he acquires his plants and he compared the prices with those in Japan of similar age and quality, and how they increase greatly in value after only a few months of care in Europe. Then we all entered his secure area to see the exhibition plants.

Daniel Low



MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership fees for 2020 were due on 1st November 2019. The following table outlines membership fees:

Membership type	Emailed newsletter*	Black & white posted newsletter**
Single	\$30	\$60
Household	\$40	\$70
Life members	Free	\$30
*Included as part of all memberships		
**An additional fee of \$30 covers expenses of printing & postage		

Payments Methods: Via Internet Banking OR Via Direct Deposit over the counter at a Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: NSWCRS

BSB: 062247 Account Number: 0090 0966

Put as a Reference: "RenewalYourSurname"

Thank you to those who have promptly paid.





NSWCRS COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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	Helen Wallace (<i>Secretary</i>)	Wendy Sadler-Moyes (<i>Immediate Past President</i>)
	Julie Hood (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Juliet Muras
	Richie Griffiths (<i>Public Officer</i>)	Carolyn Low (<i>Membership Secretary</i>)
Judging Coordinator Ex-officio	Marion Moyes	E: mmoyes4@bigpond.com
National Councillors:	TBC	
ABN:	16 873 158 367	
Incorporation No.:	Y17693-47	



Camellia Grove Nursery

ESTABLISHED 1939



OUR NURSERY

8 Cattai Ridge Road
Glenorie NSW 2157
Australia

Phone: (02) 9652 1200

Fax: (02) 9652 2740

NURSERY TRADING HOURS

9am-4pm

OPEN 7 DAYS

Browse our website at:

<http://www.camelliagrove.com.au>



Hello Plant Hunters and Collectors,

Next Fair:

March 28 & 29, 2020

Saturday 8am-4pm

Sunday 9am-4pm

Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon, NSW

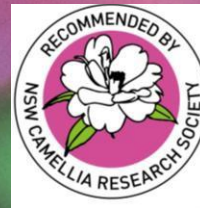
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RHODODENDRONS
AZALEAS & OTHER
ACID-LOVING PLANTS 1.5kg